## Coin Board News

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This issue is being mailed with my latest list of coin boards for sale. It includes many pieces from the Chicago Hoard of Whitman boards I acquired in April, with the result that other brands are somewhat underrepresented. The overall quality of these pieces is very high, and it will be a long time before I can replace most of them. Also included are some very scarce titles, such as boards for Liberty Seated Dimes and Washington Quarters.

The recently-concluded ANA convention at Baltimore was an exhausting affair. Including the unheralded pre-show in Towson, I was there for ten days. This was rewarding trip, however, as I received two awards stemming from my coin board research. The ANA gave me its second place Wayte and Olga Raymond Memorial Award for my article on Joseph Post which ran in the August 2007 issue of *The Numismatist* (it's great getting an award named for the pioneer promoter of coin albums!). In addition, the Numismatic Literary Guild presented me with an Extraordinary Merit award for my book *Coin Collecting Boards of the 1930s & 1940s: A Complete History, Catalog & Value Guide*.

During the Numismatic Bibliomania Society's symposium, I shared the podium with Syd Martin, author of a wonderful book on the Hibernia coinage of William Wood. We each spoke on the subject of self-publishing our respective books. The audience was extremely receptive, since it included numerous writers with similar aspirations. Later that same day I presented a slide show on the subject of collecting coin boards. This likewise drew a fairly large gathering, a hallmark of ANA conventions that is sadly lacking at more commercial shows. I concluded this program with a free drawing in which three persons went home with circa 1940 coin boards.

On the downside, I did not buy a single coin board during ANA week, though I did acquire a lot of albums for my personal collection. One close call came when I was tipped off that a dealer had a bound album of Whitman boards in his case. It turned out to be a First Edition set with very worn covers through which rusted staples were emerging. The boards inside, however, were fairly clean. Since this album was a duplicate for me, I attempted without success to obtain it for my customers. There was simply not enough wiggle room in this less than stellar album (though the loose covers did wiggle a bit!).

There are two new discoveries to report—one significant and the other minor. In the former category is a new variety of Lincoln Printing Company board for Early Nickels (rather "Nickles," as this misspelling is the discovery). Only in the main title does this error appear; the back paper spells it correctly! I had already put this board on my new price list for sale when I noticed the erroneous spelling, which evidently pre-dates the corrected variety. This board is an example of L5¢Ab, so the misspelled variety is L5¢Ab.1, while the corrected version included in my book is now L5¢Ab.2. Also newly discovered is yet another Oberwise variety for Lincoln Cents. My book lists O5¢Bv.2 as having mintages complete through nine months of 1940, while the new variety adds one more month. Since there is already a variety O5¢Bv.3 listed with mintages complete for 1940, this variety is thus numbered O5¢Bv.2.1. That Oberwise fellow must have moved a lot of coin boards to update the text monthly!

Internet offerings of coin boards continue to be lackluster. Common boards is average condition are the norm, and I haven't bought anything from this source in nearly a year. For the beginning collector, however, there are still some good introductory opportunities, while advanced collectors are finding fewer options. There simply are not many good boards in coin shops and at shows these days, though enough coin dealers now know I'm a buyer that I can still pick up a few items in my travels. I've recently learned that my show schedule in being cut way back, so I'll have to work a little harder at filling those want lists.

Dave

